

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS – March 5, 2005
(Approved April 2, 2005)

Call to Order

The regular meeting of Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with proper ceremonies by Chairman Mary Ellen Piotrowski. The roll was revealed that all officers were present

Introductions: Richard Gross, representing Sandy Flint, VARO; Ken Conney, PVA; and Timi Barrett, ADVS were introduced.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed per a motion by Bill Krause, seconded and carried. The treasurer's report was approved by a motion from Bill Krause, seconded and carried.

Correspondence: A letter to the Shrine Auditorium requesting a waiver of fees for the Hall of Fame, and a letter from Home Depot explaining their policy on veterans' projects were read.

Sickness and Distress: It was noted that Kathy Upchurch and Fred Carpenter had recently had surgery; AVHOF alumnus Myron Gowen is in a nursing home in Kingman.

Reports:

- Gary Fredricks reported that bills being introduced include insurance payments coming from pre-taxed dollars. The MOAA will go to Washington this month. New House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman is Steve Buyer, and New Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman is Larry Craig.
- Pat Chorpenning, ADVS Director reported that the President's proposed budget will seriously impact veterans by
 - limiting nursing home per diem to Categories 1, 2, 3, and catastrophic 4. This will result in 28,000 veterans nationwide being unable to stay in state homes.
 - seriously limit new state veteran homes and cemetery construction

Letters need to be written to the Arizona delegation asking that they do not support this effort.

Arizona SB 1056 and SCR 1009 both deal with property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, but both place limitations on income to be eligible. Letters need to go to the House.

The Medal of Honor Society will hold it's convention in Phoenix the last week in September, sponsor opportunities are available.

The federal phone number for the House and Senate is 1-877-762-8762.

- Sue Colvin, Carl T. Hayden VAMC Patient Advocate advised that the Ortho Clinic at the VAMC is being discontinued because there is no residency program available.
Barbara will retire from the VAMC on March 3rd. Unified Arizona Veterans thanked Barbara for her work on behalf of our veterans and she received an ovation from those present.
- Monica Cabrerra, VARO provided a handout regarding the VA regional office.

New Business: A motion was made by Donna Adams to send a letter of disapproval to the House members regarding SB 1056 and SCR 1009, seconded and carried.

Unfinished Business:

No word has been received from the Shrine Auditorium regarding the \$2,250 fee for the Hall of Fame.

Al Rodrigues initiated discussion regarding the failure of UAV Representatives to adequately notify their Department and members of what happens at UAV. Chairman Piotrowski suggested that Al head a

committee to present recommendation to fix this problem. Jim Murphy, Jim Katzenburger, and Lencho Othon will assist Al. Al will also meet with Pat Chorpenning for input.

Good of the Order:

Luella Emmons, ADVS Assistant Deputy Director, provided information on the State BenefitsCheckUp pamphlet and Veteran Registry.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 with proper ceremonies to meet again on April 2nd.

Donna Adams, Secretary